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Statement by the Honourable
Hugh P. O'Neil, Minister of
Industry, Trade and Technology
on the annual report on the
state of small business, Dec.
17, 1986

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- 1986
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Governance
Publication



ONTARIO MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT
BY
THE HONOURABLE HUGH P. O'NEIL
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY
ON THE
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS
DECEMBER 17, 1986



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

MR. SPEAKER, TODAY I AM PLEASED TO TABLE THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS.


THE REPORT DETAILS THE PERFORMANCE, CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE PROVINCE.

AS A RECORD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN ONTARIO, I BELIEVE THIS REPORT SPOTLIGHTS THEIR CRUCIAL IMPACT ON WEALTH CREATION AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

MR. SPEAKER, THERE ARE 304,000 SMALL BUSINESSES IN ONTARIO. AND THEY CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST DYNAMIC SOURCE OF JOB CREATION IN OUR ECONOMY.

EIGHTY-TWO PER CENT OF ALL NET NEW JOBS IN ONTARIO COME FROM SMALL BUSINESSES -- AND THE MAJORITY OF THESE FROM THE FORMATION OF NEW COMPANIES.

MR. SPEAKER, THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT. NEARLY A QUARTER OF ONTARIO BUSINESSES ARE NOW OWNED BY WOMEN.



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YOUNG ONTARIANS ARE TURNING TO NEW BUSINESS START-UPS AS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT. MORE THAN FORTY PER CENT OF NEW BUSINESSES ARE STARTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 30.

THESE FINDINGS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT ... A REPORT SUBMITTED TO ME BY THE COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS. IN THEIR FIRST YEAR, THEY HAVE ACHIEVED A REMARKABLE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. I SALUTE THE CHAIRMAN, RICK FERRARO, AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE; JOSEPH CORDIANO, HERB EPP, REMO MANCINI, STEVEN OFFER, JEAN POIRIER AND CLAUDIO POLSINELLI.

SINCE THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED EARLY THIS YEAR, IT HAS LISTENED INTENTLY TO SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS. THE COMMITTEE HAS BROUGHT IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND INFLUENCED DECISIONS ON LEADING ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

MR. SPEAKER, SHORTLY AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE, I ANNOUNCED THAT ITS CHAIRMAN, RICK FERRARO, WOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE INSISTENCE OF BUSINESS OWNERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CREATE A POINT OF ACCESS THROUGH WHICH GROUPS COULD ENGAGE THE GOVERNMENT IN DIALOGUE ON SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES.

THIS GOVERNMENT HAS LISTENED. WE HAVE PUT SMALL BUSINESS HIGH ON THE AGENDA.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ARE MAKING AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO ONTARIO'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY. WE ARE PREPARED TO SPEAK OUT FOR THEIR INTERESTS. AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND WITH FAITH IN ONTARIO'S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

